

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

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O P 151000Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2172

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMFAIRMED

COMFAIRMEDREP ATHENS

NAVDET SOUDA BAY CRETE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUDA BAY

REF: A. CINCUSNAVEUR 091026Z JAN 74

B. STATE 252138

SUMMARY: BECAUSE GOG WAS CREATING AN UNNECESSARY PROBLEM FOR ITSELF, AND FOR USG, ON JANUARY 11 I CONVEYED TO FONMIN AND PRIME MINISTER MY CONCERN ABOUT SITUATION CREATED SUCCESSIVE HAF DEADLINES FOR SIGNING NEW SOUDA AB AGREEMENT. ON JANUARY 14 FONMIN AND I DISCUSSED SITUATION, RESULTING IN LIFTING OF ANY DEADLINE FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS AT EMBASSY-FONOFF LEVEL ON JANUARY 15. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM TIME OF RECEIPT OF INITIAL ULTIMATUM OF DECEMBER 13 FROM LT GEN PAPANICOLAOU, IT HAS BEEN APPARENT THAT THIS TACTIC OF GOG MILITARY OF SEEKING TO IMPOSE DEADLINES WAS
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ILL-CONCEIVED AND REFLECTIVE OF THE INEXPERIENCE AND

NAIVETE OF TOO MANY OF THOSE BROUGHT INTO LEADERSHIP POSITIONS SINCE NOVEMBER 25. WE HAD HOPED THAT FUTILITY OF SUCH TACTICS WOULD BECOME APPARENT THROUGH MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CNTACTS; BUT, USEFUL AS EDUCATIVE EFFORTS OF U.S. MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN, PROBLEM OF SECURING UNINTERRUPTED USE OF SOUDA AB APPEARED NOT YET TO BE SOLVED BY THEM. THEREFORE, ON JANUARY 11 I CONVEYED TO FONMIN TETENES AND PRIMIN ANDROUTSOPOULOS COPIES OF REF A AND AN INDICATION OF MY CONCERN AT THE DIFFICULTIES FOR OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP CREATED BY GOG'S APPROACH.

2. ON JANUARY 14, I FOLLOWE UP MAT E IN MEETING WITH FONMIN TETENES AND AMBASSADOR MIGLIARESSIS, DIRECTOR GENERAL 3RD DIRECTORATE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, I POINTED OUT THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO GREECE'S DEFENSE THROUGH NATO PUT OUR RELATIONSHIP IN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CATEGORY THAN THAT BETWEEN U.S. AND SPAIN, FOR EXAMPLE. I NOTED THAT SIXTH FLEET WAS EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT TO DEFENSE OF GREECE AND HAF'S IMPOSITION OF SUCCESSIVE DEADLINES ON ITS ABILITY TO FUNCTION MORE EFFECTIVELY NEAR GREECE THEREFORE WAS SELF-DEFEATING. I SUGGESTED THAT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS HAD RESUMED BETWEEN USN AND HAF, IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE FURTHER DEADLINES.

3. TETENES AGREED THAT DEADLINE AT THIS TIME NOT APPROPRIATE, BUT COUNTERED BY COMMENT RE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREEK VIEW THAT THESE REALLY HAD AMOUNTED ONLY TO EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY LEVEL. DURING OUR DISCUSSION, MIGLIARESSIS, WHO SEEMED WELL-INFORMED ON ISSUES, EXHIBITED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF USG'S POSITION ON KEY ISSUES. THIS REPORTEDLY HAD NOT BEEN TUUE OF HAF NEGOTIATIONS. TETENES PROPOSED THAT MEETING BE ARRANGED BETWEEN EMBOFFS AND AMB MIGLIARESSIS FOR FOLLOWING DAY, JANUARY 15, IN ORDER TO SEEK AGREEMENT SOON ON SUBSTANCE OF SOUDA AB AGREEMENT. I AGREED, AND DCM BRANDIN AND POL/MIL OFFICER PUGH WILL MEET WITH AMB MIGLIARESSIS TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATION.

4. IN JANUARY 15 AND ANY ENSUING DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, BE GUIDED BY REF B. ADDITIONALLY, IT
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WOULD BE QUITE HELPFUL IF GUIDANCE ON COMPROMISE PROPOSALS SOUGHT THROUGH U.. NAVY CHANNELS FOLLOWING MEETING OF JANUARY 7 COULD BE PROVIDED AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.
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